



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/811,703	03/19/2001	Timothy J. Wojcik	81359N-R	9473

7590 08/28/2002

Milton S. Sales
Patent Legal Staff
Eastman Kodak Company
343 State Street
Rochester, NY 14650-2201

EXAMINER

LIANG, LEONARD S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2853

DATE MAILED: 08/28/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/811,703	Applicant(s) WOJCIK ET AL.	
	Examiner Leonard S Liang	Art Unit 2853	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 March 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>2,3</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: 18a, 42, and 54. A proposed drawing correction, corrected drawings, or amendment to the specification to add the reference sign(s) in the description, are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On page 6, line 27-28, it is stated, "First, excessive waste of the receiver media, or paper 18 results in an efficient printer." This does not make sense. It will be construed that the statement should be rewritten as "First, excessive waste of the receiver media, or paper 18 results in an inefficient printer." Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 39 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The claim states, "The method... wherein said deactivating step is **followed** by the step of rotating said rotary drum to a desired cutting position." It is not clear how the rotary drum can continue to be rotated to a cutting position, if it has already been deactivated. It will be construed that the claim should state, "The method... wherein said deactivating step is **accompanied** by the step of rotating said rotary drum to a desired cutting position."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Art Unit: 2853

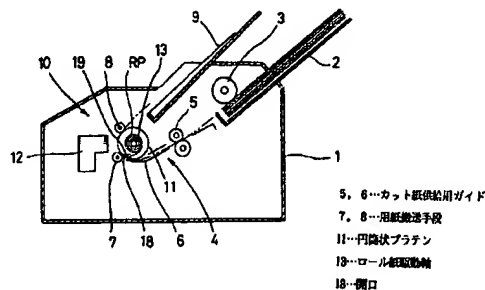
The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

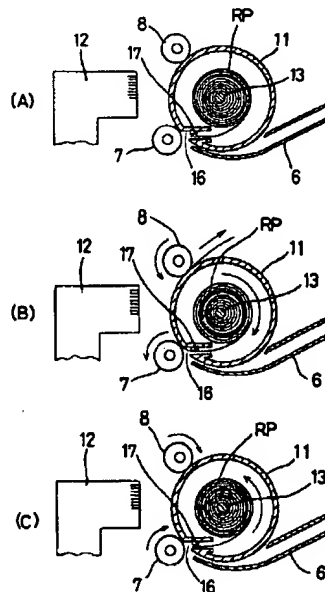
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kikumura et al (JP Pat 405147284).

Kikumura et al discloses, with respect to claim 1, a printer system for producing variable sized printed receiver media (figure 1, reference 2, RP as shown below) comprising:

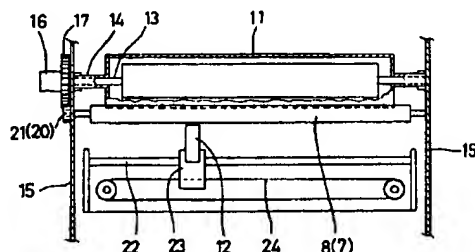


a receiver media handling system for an inkjet printer having an internal media supply roll (figure 3A-C, reference 13, RP as shown below);



Art Unit: 2853

a printhead carriage (figure 2, reference 23 as shown below) for printing images within an image area on the receiver media from the supply roll;



and a post-print treatment station (figure 1, reference 9).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2, 4, 6-7, 9-10, 13-15, 17-19, 21, and 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikumura et al (JP Pat 405147284) in view of Kenbo (JP Pat 358028393), Nuita et al (US Pat 6050683), and Bickoff et al (US Pat 5482389).

Kikumura et al discloses :

- {claim 2, 14, 15} rotary drum (figure 3, reference 11); receiver media feeder (figure 3A-C, reference 16-17); motorized means (Detailed Description page 2, line 24; page 3, lines 19-22)
- {claims 4 and 21} in-feed drive roller (figure 3, reference 7)
- {claims 6 and 19} two paper feed means retain receiver media in printing position by tension {figure 3B, references 7, 8, RP}
- {claims 7 and 17} rotary drum returns to receiver media feed position to begin new cycle (figure 3C; Detailed Description page 3, lines 19-21)

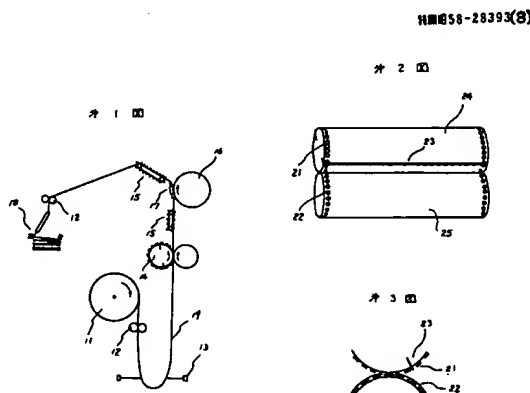
Art Unit: 2853

- {claims 10 and 26} in-feed guide which causes cut receiver media to exit onto a paper tray (figure 1, reference 9)
- {claim 13} printhead carriage configured to translate across rotary drum (figure 2, references 11, 23)

Kikumura et al differs from the claimed invention in that it does not disclose:

- {claims 2, 14, 18, 23, 24, and 25} plurality of cutter notches predisposed at predetermined locations; lead edge clamp; and retractable cutting blade for cutting receiver media
- {claims 6 and 19} receiver media is retained from the supply roll in a printing position by tensioning the receiver media from the supply roll between the lead edge clamp and the receiver media supply roll.
- {claim 9} means for determining the location to cut the receiver media utilizing the image area for the current print job.

Kenbo discloses, with respect to claims 2, 14, 23, and 24 a plurality of cutter notches (figure 1, reference 14; abstract). It can be readily seen that the cutters 21 form a rotary cutter wheel (figure 2, reference 21). Kenbo teaches that the motivation for the cutter notches is to cut an inexpensive long rolled sheet (abstract).



Nuita et al discloses, with respect to claims 2, 6, 14, 18, and 19:

Art Unit: 2853

- a front-end (i.e. lead edge) clamp (figure 3, reference 41; column 5, lines 17-67).
Nuita et al teaches that the front end clamping system retains the front edge of receiver media from the supply roll at a location about the rotary drum (column 5, lines 22-25).

U.S. Patent Apr. 18, 2000 Sheet 3 of 9 6,050,683

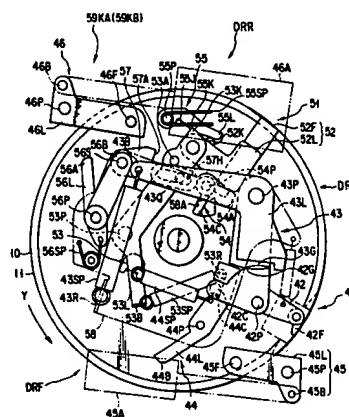


FIG. 3

- a means for determining the location to cut the receiver media utilizing the image area for the current print job (it is inherent to the invention since printing occurs during the driving of the drum and the driving of the drum stops for the removal (i.e. cutting) of the paper (column 1, lines 61-67; column 2, lines 1-9). Nuita et al teaches that "The above-described conventional ink-jet printer requires a long printing time to perform continuous printing. The rotation of the drum stops each time the paper sheet is loaded thereto or removed therefrom, so as to prevent a print head from being damaged due to the rise of a paper sheet (column 1, lines 35-40).

Bickoff et al discloses, with respect to claims 2 and 25 a retractable cutting blade (figure 1, reference 7; column 2, lines 54-55; abstract). Bikoff teaches that such a retractable cutting blade offers many advantages in terms of simplicity, economy of design, maintainability, and reliability.

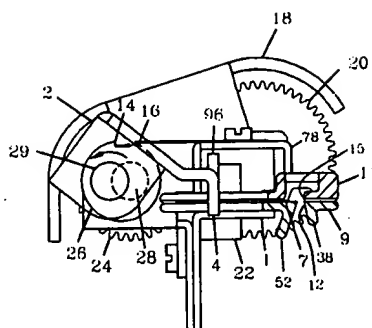


FIGURE 1

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the plurality of cutter notches disclosed by Kenbo onto the rotary drum disclosed by Kikumura et al. The motivation for the skilled artisan in doing so is to gain the benefit of being able to print on and cut an inexpensive long rolled sheet, as taught above.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the lead edge clamp disclosed by Nuita et al into the invention of Kikumura et al. It would have been further obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Nuita et al into the invention of Kikumura et al, so that there is a means for determining the location to cut the receiver media utilizing the image area for the current print job. The motivation for the skilled artisan in incorporating the lead edge clamp disclosed by Nuita et al is to gain the benefit of being able to retain the front edge of receiver media from the supply roll at a location about the rotary drum, as taught above. This replacement naturally suggests that the invention could be configured so that the receiver media is retained from the supply roll in a printing position by tensioning the receiver media from the supply roll between the lead edge clamp and the receiver media supply roll. The motivation for the skilled artisan in including the location determining means is to gain the benefit of being able to properly print on and remove an amount of receiver media, while avoiding problems, such as the damaging of print heads, as taught above.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the retractable cutting blades disclosed by Bickoff et al into

Art Unit: 2853

the invention of Kikumura et al in order to cut the receiver media at any one of the cutter notches. The motivation for the skilled artisan in doing so is to gain the benefit of the many advantages of the invention, in terms of simplicity, economy of design, maintainability, and reliability, as taught above.

6. Claims 3 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikumura et al (JP Pat 405147284) in view of Kenbo (JP Pat 358028393), Nuita et al (US Pat 6050683), and Bickoff et al (US Pat 5482389), as applied to claims 2 and 15 above, and further in view of Piatt et al (US Pat 4725857).

Kikumura et al in view of Kenbo, Nuita et al, and Bickoff et al differs from the claimed invention in that it does not disclose that the rotary drum is adapted to run counter-clockwise causing the cut receiver media to unload onto the post-print treatment station.

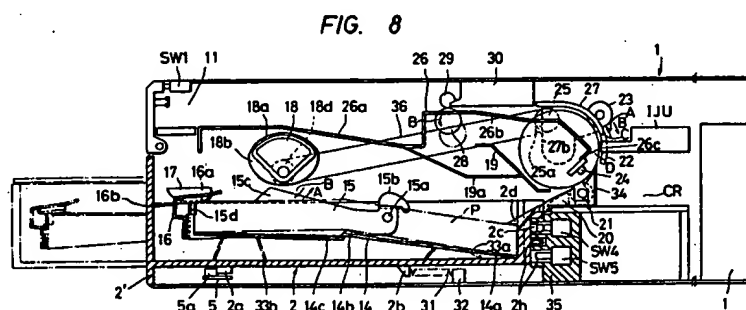
Piatt et al discloses, with respect to claims 3 and 16, that the rotary drum runs counter-clockwise causing the cut receiver media to unload onto the post-print station treatment station (figure 4C, reference 39). Piatt et al teaches that "it is desirable for the housing top to embody guide structure 36 and additional pressure rollers 37, aligned with bands 24 so that a printed sheet is moved completely onto the output tray 39..." (column 5, lines 32-36).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the teachings of Piatt et al into the invention of Kikumura in view of Kenbo, Nuita et al, and Bickoff et al so that the rotary drum is adapted to run counter-clockwise. The motivation for the skilled artisan in doing so is to gain the benefit of being able to move the cut receiver media completely onto the post-print treatment station, as taught above.

7. Claims 5 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikumura et al (JP Pat 405147284) in view of Kenbo (JP Pat 358028393), Nuita et al (US Pat 6050683), and Bickoff et al (US Pat 5482389), as applied to claims 4 and 21 above, and further in view of Watanabe et al (US Pat 5019839) and Lardant et al (US Pat 6011571).

Kikumura et al in view of Kenbo, Nuita et al, and Bickoff et al differs from the claimed invention in that it does not disclose that the in-feed drive roller is configured to retract for printing.

Watanabe et al discloses, with respect to claims 5 and 22 a sheet guide (which, like the in-feed roller, also pushes the receiver media to the lead edge clamp), which is configured to retract for printing (figure 8, reference 27; column 2, lines 5-16; column 10, lines 42-45; column 26, lines 60-68).



Watanabe et al differs from the claimed invention in that it does not disclose a retractable roller.

Lardant et al discloses, with respect to claims 5 and 22, retractable rollers (column 1, lines 25-31). Lardant et al teaches that printers having retractable rollers are well known (column 1, lines 25-31).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Watanabe et al and Lardant et al into the invention of Kikumura et al in view of Kenbo, Nuita et al, and Bickoff et al so that the in-feed drive roller is configured to retract for printing. The benefits of retractable rollers are well known to one of ordinary skill in the art, as taught above.

8. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikumura et al (JP Pat 405147284) in view of Kenbo (JP Pat 358028393), Nuita et al (US Pat 6050683), and Bickoff et al (US Pat 5482389), as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Kakutani et al (US Pat 6299283).

Kikumura et al in view of Kenbo, Nuita et al, and Bickoff et al differs from the claimed invention in that it does not disclose that the amounts of receiver media from the supply roll on the outer surface of the rotary drum is constant for all requested print formats.

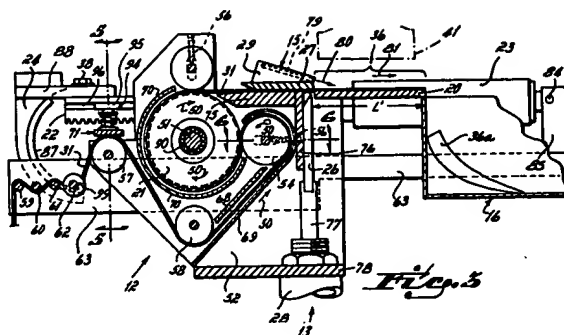
Kakutani et al discloses, with respect to claim 8, a printing apparatus with constant feed (abstract). Thus, it is inherent to the invention that the receiver media from the supply roll on the outer surface of the rotary drum is constant for all requested print formats (since the actual amount of supply media that is fed is the same despite the requested print format). Kakutani teaches that the invention “improves image quality by mitigating the effect of any irregularity that may be present in the nozzle pitch, the jetting Feature and the like.” (column 1, lines 63-65)

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Kakutani et al into the invention of Kikumura et al in view of Kenbo, Nuita et al, and Bickoff et al so that the amounts of receiver media from the supply roll on the outer surface of the rotary drum is constant for all requested print formats. The motivation for the skilled artisan in doing so is to gain the benefit of improved image quality, as taught above.

9. Claims 11 and 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikumura et al (JP Pat 405147284) in view of Kenbo (JP Pat 358028393), Nuita et al (US Pat 6050683), and Bickoff et al (US Pat 5482389), as applied to claims 2 and 18 above, and further in view of Clay (US Pat 4282808).

Kikumura et al in view of Kenbo, Nuita et al, and Bickoff et al differs from the claimed invention in that it does not disclose an outer guide shoe adapted to guide the receiver media from the supply roll toward the lead edge clamp.

Clay discloses, with respect to claims 11 and 20, an outer guide shoe (figure 3, reference 70; column 4, lines 32-35). Clay teaches that the guide shoe aids in preventing backlash of the endless tape strip 31 (i.e. receiver medium) as it proceeds through the tape feed mechanism 12...



It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made incorporate the invention of Clay into the invention of Kikumura et al in view of Kenbo, Nuita et al, and Bickoff et al in order to guide the receiver media from the supply roll toward the lead edge clamp. The motivation for the skilled artisan in doing so is to gain the benefit of being able to prevent backlash of the receiver media, as taught above.

10. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikumura et al (JP Pat 405147284) in view of Kenbo (JP Pat 358028393), Nuita et al (US Pat 6050683), and Bickoff et al (US Pat 5482389), as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Drake (US Pat 5098503).

Kikumura et al in view of Kenbo, Nuita et al, and Bickoff et al differs from the claimed invention in that it does not disclose that the printhead carriage is page-width.

Drake discloses, with respect to claim 12, a page-width printhead (with the carriage being page-width implied). Drake teaches that having a page-width printhead is desirable because it allows high speed printing to be performed (column 2, lines 7-8).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the page-width printhead disclosed by Drake into the invention of Kikumura et al in view of Kenbo, Nuita et al, and Bickoff et al so that the printhead carriage is page-width. The motivation for the skilled artisan in doing so is to gain the benefit of allowing high-speed printing to be performed, as taught above.

Art Unit: 2853

11. Claims 27, 30-40, and 42-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikumura et al (JP Pat 405147284) in view of Kenbo (JP Pat 358028393), Nuita et al (US Pat 6050683), and Bickoff et al (US Pat 5482389).

Kikumura et al discloses :

- {claim 27} rotary drum having a tube-shaped outer surface (figure 3, reference 11); internal receiver media supply roll (figure 3, references 13, RP); means for printing images on the receiver media from the supply roll (figure 3B, references 12, RP); drawing the receiver media from the supply roll and along the outer surface (figure 3B, reference RP); retaining an edge of the receiver media from the supply roll at a location about the rotary drum (figure 3B, reference RP); and causing the cut receiver media to exit a receiver media path (figure 1, reference 9).
- {claim 30} guiding the receiver media around the circumference of the rotary drum (figure 3B)
- {claim 31} defining an image area on the receiver media for printing (figure 3B, reference 11-13; the step of defining image area is inherent to the invention)
- {claim 32} tensioning the receiver media around the rotary drum through the receiver media supply roll
- {claim 34} translating a printhead carriage across the rotary drum for printing images on the receiver media within the image area (figure 2, references 11 and 23)
- {claims 35-37} causing the printhead carriage to print from the edge of the receiver media from the supply roll up to the six/three/twelve o'clock positions (figure 3A-3B; By regarding figure 3A as starting at the twelve o'clock position, and figure 3B as ending at the six o'clock position, it is seen that the printhead carriage prints from the edge of the receiver media from the supply roll up to the twelve/three/six o'clock positions)
- {claim 42} pushing the cut receiver media out of its original path and onto the path of an in-feed guide (figure 3, reference 8)

Art Unit: 2853

- {claim 43} rotary drum returns to a paper feed position for the next cycle (figure 3C; Detailed Description, page 3, lines 19-21)

Kikumura et al differs from the claimed invention in that it does not disclose:

- {claim 27} a plurality of cutter notches predisposed at predetermined locations; and cutting the receiver media at any one of the cutter notches.
- {claim 33} the tensioning step is followed by activating the drum to speed
- {claim 38} the cutting step is preceded by the step of deactivating the rotary drum
- {claim 39} the deactivating step is accompanied by the step of rotating the rotary drum to a desired cutting position
- {claim 40} rotating step is followed by the step of causing a retractable cutter blade to come in contact with the receiver media on the rotary drum by running against the cutter notches on the outer surface

Kenbo discloses, with respect to claims 27 and 40, a plurality of cutter notches (as disclosed in claim 2}).

Nuita et al discloses:

- {claim 33} the tensioning step is followed by the step of activating the drum to speed (column 1, lines 35-40 for tensioning; column 1, lines 17-25 for speed).
Nuita et al teaches that "The rotation of the drum stops each time the paper sheet is loaded thereto or removed therefrom, so as to prevent a print head from being damaged due to a rise of the paper sheet (column 1, lines 35-40). This allows proper removal (cutting) of the medium without damage to the printhead.
- {claim 38} cutting step is preceded by the step of deactivating the rotary drum (column 1, lines 35-40 for deactivating; column 3, lines 25-27 for cutting)
- {claim 39} deactivating step is accompanied by the step of rotating the rotary drum to a desired cutting position (column 2, lines 6-9).

Bickoff et al discloses, with respect to claim 40, a retractable cutter blade (as disclosed in claim 2)

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the plurality of cutter notches disclosed by Kenbo onto the rotary drum disclosed by Kikumura et al. The motivation for the skilled artisan in doing so is to gain the benefit of being able to print on and cut an inexpensive long rolled sheet, as taught in claim 2 above. The combination naturally suggests that the receiver media can be cut at any one of the cutter notches.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Nuita et al into the invention of Kikumura et al so that the tensioning step is followed by the step of activating the drum to speed; the cutting step is preceded by the step of deactivating the rotary drum; and the deactivating step is accompanied by the step of rotating the rotary drum to a desired cutting position. The motivation for the skilled artisan in doing so is to gain the benefit of being able to properly cut and remove the supply medium without damaging the printhead, as taught above.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the retractable cutting blades disclosed by Bickoff et al into the invention of Kikumura et al in order to cut the receiver media at any one of the cutter notches. The motivation for the skilled artisan in doing so is to gain the benefit of the many advantages of the invention, in terms of simplicity, economy of design, maintainability, and reliability, as taught in claim 2 above. This combination, in light of the teachings of Nuita et al, naturally suggests that the rotating step is followed by the step of causing a retractable cutter blade to come in contact with the receiver media on the rotary drum by running against the cutter notches on the outer surface.

12. Claims 28-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikumura et al (JP Pat 405147284) in view of Kenbo (JP Pat 358028393), Nuita et al (US Pat 6050683), and Bickoff et al (US Pat 5482389), as applied to claim 27 above, and further in view of Watanabe et al (US Pat 5019839) and Lardant et al (US Pat 6011571).

Kikumura et al in view of Kenbo, Nuita et al, and Bickoff et al discloses, with respect to claims 28-29, an in-feed drive roller to come in contact with the outer surface {as disclosed in claim 4 above}

Kikumura et al in view of Kenbo, Nuita et al, and Bickoff et al differs from the claimed invention in that it does not disclose that the in-feed drive roller is retractable, nor does it disclose a lead edge clamp.

Watanabe et al discloses, with respect to claims 28-29, a sheet guide (which, like the in-feed roller, also pushes the receiver media to the lead edge clamp), which is configured to retract for printing (figure 8, reference 27; column 2, lines 5-16; column 10, lines 42-45; column 26, lines 60-68).

Watanabe et al differs from the claimed invention in that it does not disclose a retractable roller.

Lardant et al discloses, with respect to claims 5 and 22, retractable rollers (column 1, lines 25-31). Lardant et al teaches that printers having retractable rollers are well known (column 1, lines 25-31).

Nuita discloses, with respect to claims 28-29 a lead edge clamp {as taught in claim 2 above}

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Watanabe et al and Lardant et al into the invention of Kikumura et al in view of Kenbo, Nuita et al, and Bickoff et al so that the in-feed drive roller is configured to retract for printing. The benefits of retractable rollers are well known to one of ordinary skill in the art, as taught above.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the lead edge clamp disclosed by Nuita et al into the invention of Kikumura et al in view of Kenbo, Nuita et al, and Bickoff et al. The motivation for the skilled artisan in doing so is to gain the benefit of being able to retain the front edge of receiver media from the supply roll at a location about the rotary drum, as taught in claim 2 above.

13. Claim 41 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikumura et al (JP Pat 405147284) in view of Kenbo (JP Pat 358028393), Nuita et al (US Pat 6050683), and Bickoff et al (US Pat 5482389), as applied to claim 27 above, and further in view of Piatt et al (US Pat 4725857).

Art Unit: 2853

Kikumura et al in view of Kenbo, Nuita et al, and Bickoff et al differs from the claimed invention in that it does not disclose that the cutting step is followed by the step of rotating the rotary drum counter-clockwise.

Piatt et al discloses, with respect to claims 3 and 16, that the rotary drum runs counter-clockwise causing the cut receiver media to unload onto the post-print station treatment station (figure 4C, reference 39). Piatt et al teaches that "it is desirable for the housing top to embody guide structure 36 and additional pressure rollers 37, aligned with bands 24 so that a printed sheet is moved completely onto the output tray 39..." (column 5, lines 32-36).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the teachings of Piatt et al into the invention of Kikumura in view of Kenbo, Nuita et al, and Bickoff et al so that the cutting step is followed by the step of rotating the rotary drum counter-clockwise. The motivation for the skilled artisan in doing so is to gain the benefit of being able to move the cut receiver media completely onto the post-print treatment station, as taught above.

Conclusion

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leonard S Liang whose telephone number is (703) 305-4754. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5 Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow can be reached on (703) 308-3126. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7724 for regular communications and (703) 308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

lsl 156

August 20, 2002



**CRAIG HALLACHER
PRIMARY EXAMINER**